

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 OES-03 OMB-01 EB-07 IGA-02 TRSE-00

HEW-02 /086 W

----- 044600

R 270641Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1560

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SPOP

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR GREEN'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT MARCOS

1. SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR GREEN, ACCOMPANIED BY CHARGE AND USAID DIRECTOR, CALLED ON PRESIDENT MARCOS JAN 26 FOR THIRTY-MINUTE DISCUSSION ON POPULATION POLICY. THE AMBASSADOR STRESSED THE NEED FOR VIGOROUS EXTENSION OF FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMS INTO RURAL AREAS. THE PRESIDENT RECONFIRMED THIS AND MRS. MARCOS CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR FAMILY PLANNING AND OUTLINED MOST RECENT EFFORTS TO ENGAGE KEY PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRYSIDE IN THAT EFFORT. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESIDENT MARCOS WARMLY GREETED AMBASSADOR GREEN WHO BRIEFLY INFORMED THE PRESIDENT OF HIS NEW DUTIES.

AMBASSADOR GREEN SAID IT IS APPROPRIATE THAT HIS FIRST COUNTRY VISIT SHOULD BE THE PHILIPPINES SINCE THIS IS

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THE LARGEST U.S. BILATERAL POPULATION PROGRAM. THE

PHILIPPINE PROGRAM HAS MADE DYNAMIC STRIDES IN RECENT YEARS IN THE FACE OF CONSIDERABLE ADVERSITY AND THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. MARCOS ARE TO BE CONGRATULATED FOR THEIR LEADERSHIP.

3. PRESIDENT MARCOS RESPONDED THAT MRS. MARCOS VERY ACTIVELY SUPPORTS THE POPULATION PROGRAM AND KEEPS HIM UP TO DATE ON IT. AMBASSADOR GREEN OBSERVED THAT THE PHILIPPINE PROGRAM APPEARS TO HAVE PROGRESSED TO THE POINT WHERE A MAJOR EFFORT COULD BE UNDERTAKEN TO REACH RURAL AREAS. THE PRESIDENT REPLIED THAT HE ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THIS BECAUSE OF ITS POTENTIAL IMPACT ON SOCIAL AS WELL AS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.

4. PRESIDENT MARCOS POINTED OUT THAT THE PHILIPPINE POPULATION PROGRAM HAS MADE VERY GOOD PROGRESS, PARTICULARLY CONSIDERING THAT THE PHILIPPINES IS PREDOMINANTLY A CATHOLIC COUNTRY. HE SAID THE CATHOLIC CHURCH MIGHT BE CALLED NEUTRAL ON THE SUBJECT, WITH SOME PRIESTS AGAINST, OTHERS NEUTRAL AND YET OTHERS STRONGLY SUPPORTING, SINCE THEY SEE THE GREAT VALUE OF FAMILIES BEING ABLE TO CONTROL FAMILY SIZE. HE FELT THE PROGRAM HAD REACHED THE POINT WHERE THE NEXT MAJOR MOVE WOULD BE OUT TO THE BARANGAYS. HE ADDED THAT HE AND MRS. MARCOS HAD INSTRUCTED BARANGAY LEADERS TO DISCUSS FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMS REGULARLY WITH THEIR PEOPLE. THESE LEADERS ARE TO REPORT DIRECTLY TO THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT ON A REGULAR BASIS CONCERNING SUCH DISCUSSIONS AND THE GENERAL REACTIONS OF PEOPLE TO THEM. THESE REPORTS ARE TO BE COLLATED BY HIS IMMEDIATE STAFF AND LAGGARDS ARE TO BE REMINDED PERIODICALLY OF THEIR INSTRUCTIONS. EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO USE SCHOOL TEACHERS, PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS, BARANGAY LEADERS, MEMBERS OF CIVIC AND COMMERCIAL GROUPS AND THE PEOPLE IN THE BARANGAYS TO HELP MOTIVATE AND PRACTICE FAMILY PLANNING.

5. AMBASSADOR GREEN RECALLED THE STRONG U.S. INTEREST IN HELPING THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE TO BUILD A STRONG FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM. HE NOTED THAT USAID IS CONTINUING TO SUPPORT THE POPULATION PROGRAM AT A VERY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUBSTANTIAL RATE. HE ENDORSED THE PRESIDENT'S EFFORTS TO MOVE THE PROGRAM DOWN TO THE BARANGAY, AND EMPHASIZED THE POINT BY HANDING THE PRESIDENT A GRAPH RECENTLY PREPARED BY THE POPULATION INSTITUTE, UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES, WHICH SHOWS THAT FROM THE RURAL TO THE MUNICIPAL LEVEL THERE IS A DECIDED DROP IN THE PERCENTAGE OF ELIGIBLE COUPLES PARTICIPATING. AMBASSADOR GREEN REPEATED HIS APPRECIATION OF THE STRONG SUPPORT

GIVEN THE PROGRAM BY THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. MARCOS BUT EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT OTHERS DOWN THE LINE MAY NOT BE GETTING THE MESSAGE AND THAT HE HAD HEARD HOW RURAL OUT-REACH IN THE PHILIPPINE PROGRAM WAS MOVING RATHER SLOWLY. WE ARE UNDER STRONG MANDATE FROM CONGRESS TO ENSURE THAT OUR AID REACHES THE POOR PEOPLE, INCLUDING THOSE IN EVEN MOST REMOTE RURAL AREAS. THIS WAS A VIEW WIDELY ENDORSED BY HUNDREDS OF CITIZENS ORGANIZATIONS IN OUR COUNTRY, INCLUDING SOME 150 CONCERNED WITH FAMILY PLANNING. THE PRESIDENT ACKNOWLEDGED THIS PROBLEM OF OUTREACH BUT FELT A MAJOR EFFORT CAN BE DEVELOPED THROUGH EXTENSIVE TRAINING OF MOTIVATORS, MIDWIVES, BAREFOOT DOCTORS AND OTHERS AT THE MUNICIPAL AND BARANGAY LEVEL, AND THROUGH DEVELOPMENT OF AN EFFECTIVE CONTRACEPTIVE DELIVERY PROGRAM.

6. THE PRESIDENT EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE EFFORTS MADE IN THE PAST BY THE UNITED STATES TO HELP THE PHILIPPINES IN FAMILY PLANNING, SAID HE LOOKED FORWARD TO A CONTINUATION OF THIS ASSOCIATION, AND THANKED AMBASSADOR GREEN FOR HIS CANDID AND INFORMED COMMENTS. SULLIVAN

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